

# MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

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## News from the State Law Library of Montana

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY  
1515 E. 6th AVE.  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

### STATE BAR OF MONTANA FUNDS EXCITING NEW APPROACH TO INFORMATION DELIVERY

Simultaneous Remote Database Searching (SRDS) is a new concept in information technology. Via telephone lines, SRDS allows information to be transmitted from a database (LEXIS, WESTLAW, DIALOG) to a searching computer terminal (Law Library) and to be simultaneously transmitted to a second, satellite terminal at a remote location (Red Lodge, for example). This technique is now possible in Montana thanks to a gift of equipment from the State Bar of Montana to the State Law Library.

With SRDS, the law library will perform the computer search, while the second, satellite terminal also receives. Via a second, separate, telephone connection, human interaction will occur when the searcher directs questions to the person at the remote terminal. In turn, the person at the satellite terminal will answer and/or ask questions.

With this system, the frustrations commonly experienced by the novice or infrequent searcher are circumvented, because an expert searcher is involved. Search results are better defined and more relevant, because the patron immediately sees the results in the form of a joint dialogue between the searcher and the computer database system.

Our objective in providing this innovative program is to reach out to the practitioners and smaller law firms in remote areas which have been unable or unwilling to do their own on-line searching. We are excited to be offering this service, which is the first of its kind in the United States to target a legal community.

### LEXIS AT THE BAR

Look for the Law Library's exhibit table at the State Bar's annual meeting in July. We will be there, next to LEXIS, and will be anxious to discuss with you the membership group plan for Simultaneous Remote Searching utilizing LEXIS and our Montana FAXNET project.

### NEW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday & Wednesday	8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Please call 444-3660 day or night to verify library hours.

## WHAT'S OURS IS YOURS

You, too, can have a list, i.e. a catalog, of the books, law reviews, video tapes, etc. that are in the law library's collection. In order to increase the usefulness and convenience of the library's collection, we offer for sale, copies of the library's microfiche catalog.

Materials in the catalog may be located by author, title, or subject. Access to a microfiche reader is necessary for using the catalog.

We hope that having the library's catalog in offices will aid in utilizing the State Law Library's collection throughout Montana.

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Enter my order for \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of the current issue of the State Law Library's microfiche catalog @ \$25.00 per copy or annual subscription (4 quarterly issues) @ \$75.00. Payment is enclosed.

Name or Firm Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Send order form along with check made payable to: State Law Library of Montana, Justice Building, 215 North Sanders, Helena, Montana 59620.

## HOW WE FARED DURING THE 50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Like other state agencies, we were given no additional funding during the 1987 session. Our appropriation for FY 88/89 sustains the cuts we have taken in the past eighteen months. Our book budget will enable us to purchase at only 1983 levels, which means that we will continue to cancel subscriptions and will be unable to add many new titles.

The Law Library did not lose any staff positions which definitely is good news. We had requested an additional part-time circulation clerk to help with the CLE tape program, but this request was not funded.

Because our services continue to be used at record levels, we no longer will be open on Sundays. Those four



hours of staffing will be more effectively used during peak hours Monday through Friday.

Representative John Cobb introduced HB 911 at the end of the session, which would have consolidated the Law Library with the State Library. This consolidation would have eliminated half of our staff, seriously reduced the book budget, and forced cancellation of many of our programs and services. With the willing and able assistance of so many of our friends in the library and legal communities, we were successful in having the bill killed and our funding restored in the general appropriations bill.

The lesson we learned is: it's not over until it's over. Thanks for all your help. It certainly was gratifying to know that so many of you feel our services and resources are important to you.

#### TERRIFIC TOMES

The following titles are some of those available at the Law Library about the United States Constitution. Check these out!

<u>American Plan of Government: the Constitution.</u>	KF/4541/.B32/1921
<u>Commentaries on the Constitution of the U.S.</u>	KF/4541/.S7/1891
<u>Comprehensive Bibliography of American Constitutional and Legal History.</u>	KF/4541/.H35
<u>Constitution and What It Means Today.</u>	KF/4550/.C64/1978
<u>Constitutional and Political History of the U.S.</u>	JK/31/.H82
<u>Constitutional Law: Substance and Procedure.</u>	KF/4550/.R57
<u>Constitutional Federalism.</u>	KF/4600/.Z9/E49/1987
<u>Constitutional Language.</u>	KF/4550/.B73
<u>Corwin on the Constitution.</u>	KF/4541/.C67
<u>Democracy and the Amendments to the Constitution.</u>	KF4557/.G74
<u>Drafting the Federal Constitution.</u>	JK/146/.P7/1968
<u>The Enduring Constitution.</u>	KF/4541/.L5
<u>The Federalist.</u>	JK/154/1961b
<u>Political Theory of The Federalist.</u>	JK/155/.E57
<u>Political Thought of the American Revolution.</u>	JK/31/.R59/1963
<u>Records of the Federal Convention, 1787.</u>	JK/141/1911
<u>U.S. Constitution A Guide to Information Sources.</u>	KF/4546/.A1/M26

Don't Forget to Celebrate!

#### STAFF 'N STUFF

We are pleased to announce the following staff changes and additions. Edith Roos has been promoted to Circulation Coordinator and Char LeVasseur is now a library technician. We welcome our new library clerk, Marie Hartman!

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Enjoy the summer!



**State Law Library of Montana**

Justice Building  
215 N. Sanders  
Helena, MT 59620